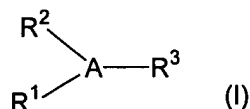


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

**Claim 1. (currently amended)** A compound of the formula (I) below, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt[[,]] ester or other derivative thereof:



wherein:

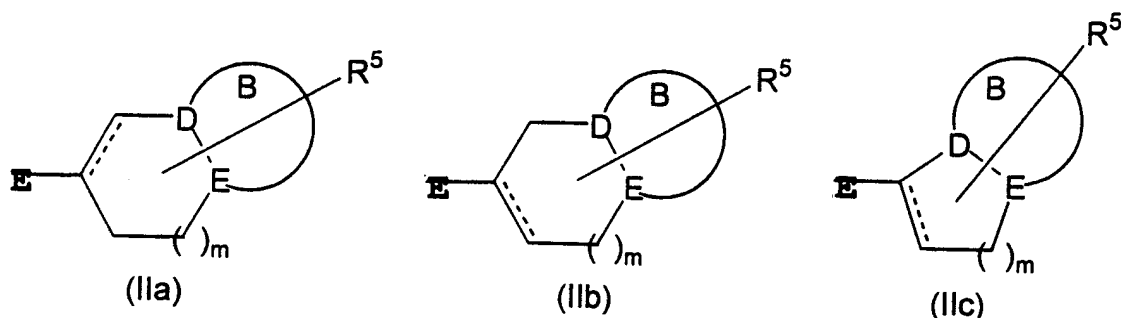
A represents ~~a trivalent group selected from the group consisting of a benzene ring having three substituents R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyridine ring having two substituents R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyridazine ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyrimidine ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a furan ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a thiophene ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyrazole ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] an imidazole ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] an isoxazole ring and an isothiazole ring;~~

R<sup>1</sup> represents ~~an unsubstituted aryl group[[,]] an aryl group which is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group α and Substituent~~

~~group  $\beta$ [[,]] an unsubstituted heteroaryl group[[,]] or a heteroaryl group which is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$~~  a phenyl group, a 4-fluorophenyl group, a 3-fluorophenyl group, a 3-chlorophenyl group, a 3,4-difluorophenyl group, a 3,4,5-trifluorophenyl group, a 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl group, a 3-difluoromethoxyphenyl group or a 3-trifluoromethylphenyl group;

~~$R^2$  represents a heteroaryl group which has at least one ring nitrogen atom[[,]] or a heteroaryl group which has at least one ring nitrogen atom[[,]] wherein said heteroaryl group is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$~~  an unsubstituted 4-pyridyl group, an unsubstituted 4-pyrimidinyl group, a 4-pyridyl group which is substituted at the 2-position thereof with one substituent selected from the group consisting of methoxy, amino, methylamino, benzylamino and  $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamino, or a 4-pyrimidinyl group which is substituted at the 2-position thereof with one substituent selected from the group consisting of methoxy, amino, methylamino, benzylamino and  $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamino; and

$R^3$  represents a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) shown below:



wherein

a bond including a dotted line represents a single bond or a double bond,

m represents 1 or 2,

$R^5$  represents ~~from 1 to 3 substituents~~ one substituent which ~~are~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$  a methoxy group, a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group and a phenyl group,

one of D and E represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents a group of a formula  $>C(R^6)-$ , wherein  $R^6$  is a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a Substituent group  $\alpha$  and a Substituent group  $\beta$ , and

B represents a ~~[[4-]] to [[7-]]membered heterocyclic~~ ring[[,]] said ring may be saturated or unsaturated[[,]] and may be fused with a group selected from aryl groups[[,]] heteroaryl groups[[,]] cycloalkyl groups and heterocyclyl groups, pyrrolidine ring or a pyrroline ring,and

$R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom[[;]], ~~a substituent from~~ Substituent group  $\beta$ [[;]] a cycloalkyl group substituted with one

~~or more substituents selected from the group consisting of~~  
~~Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent~~  
~~group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an unsubstituted aryl group[[,]] an aryl group~~  
~~substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group~~  
~~consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$  and~~  
~~Substituent group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an unsubstituted heteroaryl group[[,]] a~~  
~~heteroaryl group substituted with one or more substituents~~  
~~selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]]~~  
~~Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an~~  
~~unsubstituted heterocycetyl [[,]] or a heterocycetyl a lower alkyl~~  
~~group, a halogeno lower alkyl group, or a phenyl group~~  
substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group  
consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ , Substituent group  $\beta$  and  
Substituent group  $\gamma$ ,

PROVIDED THAT said substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  are bonded to the two  
atoms of said cyclic group A which are adjacent to the atom of  
the cyclic group A to which said substituent  $R^2$  is bonded;

Substituent group  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of  
hydroxyl groups, nitro groups, cyano groups, halogen atoms, lower  
alkoxy groups, halogeno lower alkoxy groups, lower alkylthio  
groups, halogeno lower alkylthio groups and groups of a formula  
 $-NR^aR^b$ , wherein  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  are the same or different from each  
other and each represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a  
lower alkenyl group, a lower alkynyl group, an aralkyl group or a  
lower alkylsulfonyl group, or  $R^a$  and  $R^b$ , taken together with the

nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclyl group;

Substituent group  $\beta$  is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted lower alkyl groups, unsubstituted lower alkenyl groups, unsubstituted lower alkynyl groups, aralkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, lower alkyl groups which are substituted with one or more substituents from Substituent group  $\alpha$ , lower alkenyl groups which are substituted with one or more substituents from Substituent group  $\alpha$ , and lower alkynyl groups which are substituted with one or more substituents ~~which are substituted with one or more substituents selected from Substituent group  $\alpha$ ;~~

Substituents group  $\gamma$  is selected from the group consisting of  
oxo groups; hydroxyimino groups; lower alkoxyimino groups;  
lower alkylene groups; lower alkylenedioxy groups; lower  
alkylsulfinyl groups; lower alkylsulfonyl groups; unsubstituted  
aryl groups; aryl groups which are substituted with one or more  
substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent  
group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$ ; unsubstituted aryloxy groups;  
aryloxy groups which are substituted with one or more  
substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent  
group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$ ; lower alkylidenyl groups and  
aralkylidenyl groups.

**Claims 2 to 13. (canceled)**

**Claim 14. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a group of the formula (IIa).

**Claim 15. (canceled)**

**Claim 16. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein m is 1.

**Claims 17 to 36. (canceled)**

**Claim 37. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-phenyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)-pyrazole.

**Claim 38. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 39. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 40. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 41. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-phenyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 42. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-methoxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 43. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 44. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 45. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 3-(2-ethyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 46. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, wherein the compound is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-propyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 47. (currently amended)** The compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-hydroxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(2-fluoro-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(2,2-difluoro-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(8-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,



3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-5-(2-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-5-(2-phenyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(2-hydroxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(2-methoxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(2-fluoro-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(2,2-difluoro-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-5-(8-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)-3-(3,5,6,8a-tetrahydroindolizin-7-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,8,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(7-hydroxy-1,2,3,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

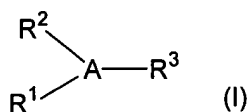
~~4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(1,2,3,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(pyridin-4-yl)imidazole~~[[,]]

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-methyliden-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,

3-(2-ethyliden-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-propyliden-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-3-(2-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-3-(2-phenyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-hydroxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-methoxy-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
3-(2-fluoro-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-3-(8-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,8a-hexahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-methyl-3,5,6,8a-tetrahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
3-(2-ethyl-3,5,6,8a-tetrahydroindolizin-7-yl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole,  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-propyl-3,5,6,8a-tetrahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole, and  
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(2-phenyl-3,5,6,8a-tetrahydroindolizin-7-yl)-4-(pyridin-4-yl)pyrazole.

**Claim 48. (currently amended)** A compound of the formula (I) below, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof:



wherein:

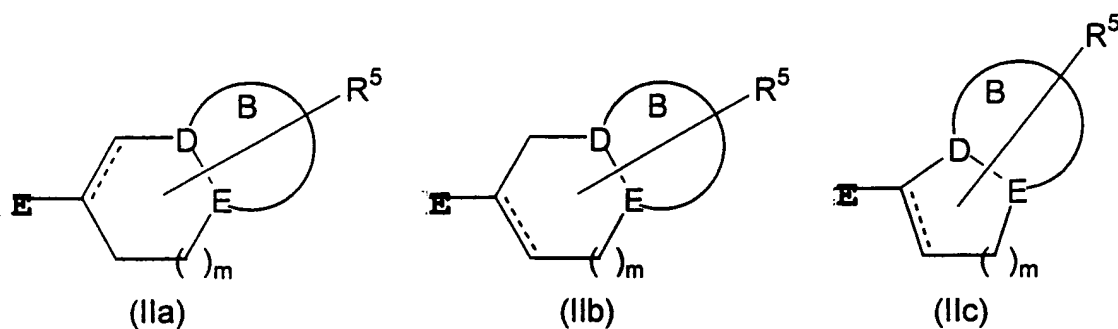
~~A represents a trivalent group selected from the group consisting of a benzene ring having three substituents R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyridine ring having two substituents R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyridazine ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyrimidine ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a furan ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a thiophene ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] a pyrazole ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] an imidazole ring having one substituent R<sup>4</sup>[[,]] an isoxazole ring and an isothiazole ring;~~

~~R<sup>1</sup> represents an unsubstituted aryl group[[,]] an aryl group which is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$ [[,]] an unsubstituted heteroaryl group[[,]] or a heteroaryl group which is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$~~  a phenyl group, a 4-fluorophenyl group, a 3-fluorophenyl group, a 3-chlorophenyl group, a 3,4-difluorophenyl group, a 3,4,5-trifluorophenyl group, a 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl group, a 3-difluoromethoxyphenyl group or a 3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl group;

~~R<sup>2</sup> represents a heteroaryl group which has at least one ring nitrogen atom[[,]] or a heteroaryl group which has at least one ring nitrogen atom[[,]] wherein said heteroaryl group is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group~~

~~consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$  an~~  
unsubstituted 4-pyridyl group; an unsubstituted 4-pyrimidinyl  
group; a 4-pyridyl group which is substituted at the 2-position  
thereof with one substituent selected from the group consisting  
of methoxy, amino, methylamino, benzylamino and  $\alpha$ -  
methylbenzylamino; or a 4-pyrimidinyl group which is substituted  
at the 2-position thereof with one substituent selected from the  
group consisting of methoxy, amino, methylamino, benzylamino and  
 $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamino; and

$R^3$  represents a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) shown below:



wherein

a bond including a dotted line represents a single bond or a double bond,

m represents 1 or 2,

$R^5$  represents ~~from 1 to 3 substituents~~ one substituent which ~~are~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of a  
~~hydrogen atoms atom, Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$~~   
~~and Substituent group  $\gamma$~~  a methoxy group, a methyl group, an ethyl  
group, a propyl group and a phenyl group,

one of D and E represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents a group of a formula  $>C(R^6)-$ , wherein  $R^6$  is a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a Substituent group  $\alpha$  and a Substituent group  $\beta$ , and

B represents a ~~[[4-]] to [[7-]]membered heterocyclic ring~~[[,]] ~~said ring may be saturated or unsaturated~~[[,]] and ~~may be fused with a group selected from aryl groups~~[[,]] ~~heteroaryl groups, cycloalkyl groups and heterocyclyl groups~~ a pyrrolidine ring or a pyrroline ring, and

$R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom; ~~a substituent from Substituent group  $\beta$ [[;]] a cycloalkyl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an unsubstituted aryl group~~[[,]] ~~an aryl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ [[,]] Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an unsubstituted heteroaryl group~~[[,]] ~~a heteroaryl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ , Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$ [[;]] an unsubstituted heterocyclyl group~~[[,]] ~~or a heterocyclyl~~ a lower alkyl group, a halogeno lower alkyl group, or a phenyl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$ , Substituent group  $\beta$  and Substituent group  $\gamma$ ,

PROVIDED THAT said substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  are bonded to the two atoms of said cyclic group A which are adjacent to the atom of the cyclic group A to which said substituent  $R^2$  is bonded;

Substituent group  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, nitro groups, cyano groups, halogen atoms, lower alkoxy groups, halogeno lower alkoxy groups, lower alkylthio groups, halogeno lower alkylthio groups and groups of formula  $-NR^aR^b$ , wherein  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  are the same or different from each other and each represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkynyl group, an aralkyl group or a lower alkylsulfonyl group, or  $R^a$  and  $R^b$ , taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclyl group;

Substituent group  $\beta$  is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted lower alkyl groups, unsubstituted lower alkenyl groups, unsubstituted lower alkynyl groups, aralkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, lower alkyl groups which are substituted with groups from Substituent group  $\alpha$ , lower alkenyl groups which are substituted with ~~one or~~ groups from Substituent group  $\alpha$ , and lower alkynyl which are substituted with one or more substituents which are substituted with ~~one or more substituents which are substituted with~~ groups from Substituent group  $\alpha$ ;

Substituents group  $\gamma$  is selected from the group consisting of oxo groups; hydroxyimino groups; lower alkoxyimino groups; lower alkylene groups; lower alkylenedioxy groups; lower alkylsulfinyl groups; lower alkylsulfonyl groups; unsubstituted aryl groups; and aryl groups which are substituted with groups selected from the group consisting of Substituent group  $\alpha$  and Substituent group  $\beta$ .

**Claim 49. (currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to ~~32~~, 14, 16 or 37 to ~~[[46]]~~ 47, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]]~~ ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**Claim 50. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]]~~ ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for the prophylaxis or treatment of diseases where inflammatory cytokines are involved.

**Claim 51. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]]~~ ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is an analgesic or an anti-inflammatory drug.

**Claim 52. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]]~~ ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutical

composition is for the prophylaxis or treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis.

**Claim 53. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for the prophylaxis or treatment of osteoarthritis.

**Claim 54. (original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for the prophylaxis or treatment of septicemia.

**Claim 55. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for inhibiting the production of inflammatory cytokines in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 56. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for inhibiting the production of inflammatory cytokines in a human which comprises administering to said human a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 32~~ , 14, 16 or 37 to ~~[[46]]~~ 47, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.



**Claim 57. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for the relief of pain and/or the treatment of inflammation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 58. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for the relief of pain and/or the treatment of inflammation in a human which comprises administering to said human a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 32~~ , 14, 16 or 37 to ~~[[46]]~~ 47, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 59. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 60. (withdrawn-currently amended)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis in a human which comprises administering to said human a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 32~~ , 14, 16 or 37 to ~~[[46]]~~ 47, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~[[,]] ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 61. (currently amended)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of osteoarthritis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt[[,]] ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 62. (currently amended)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of osteoarthritis in a human which comprises administering to said human a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 32~~, 14, 16 or 37 to **[[46]] 47**, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt[[,]] ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 63. (currently amended)** A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of septicemia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt[[,]] ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claim 64. (currently amended)** A method for the treatment of septicemia in a human which comprises administering to said human a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 32~~, 14, 16 or 37 to **[[46]] 47**, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt[[,]] ~~ester or other derivative~~ thereof.

**Claims 65 to 69. (canceled)**

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Reply to Office Action dated January 21, 2005

**Claim 70. (new)** The compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein  $R^3$  is a group of formula (IIb).

**Claim 71. (new)** The compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein  $R^3$  is a group of the formula (IIc).